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this book to the "amateur" who wishes light on "the question as to how chorus-singing and choral music came to be what they are." Incidentally he hopes to demonstrate "how puissant a factor in shaping the course of musical progress chorus-singing has been in the past, and how necessary it is to the dissemination of sound musical taste at the present time." The result is a readable little volume, covering much of the general history of music up to the seventeenth century, and offering pleasantly its stores of more modern material. It is doubtful if technical discussions such as those upon mediæval notations, polyphonic experiments, and the development of the passion texts come properly within its scope. But a large amount of information about choral development in more modern times renders it of undoubted interest to music lovers, who will enjoy comparing, for example, the chorus of fourteen men and six boys that assisted Handel at the first performance of the "Messiah," the greater one of two hundred and seventy-one, including sixty male altos, which helped to give the "Elijah" its first hearing one hundred and five years later, with our own twentieth-century organizations. The final chapter of the book is on the ideal chorus and conductor, and makes the prophecy that chorus-singing at present is but in its infancy.—GEORGE COLEMAN Gow.

Geschichte der kirchlichen Leichenfeier. Gekrönte Preisschrift von Ludwig Ruland. (Regensburg: Manz, 1901; pp. viii + 301; M. 3.) This learned but clearly written work on the history of church burial customs is altogether from the Roman Catholic point of view. It promises a preliminary study of non-Christian and Jewish burial, but what it furnishes on these points is superficial and unsatisfactory. Its real value lies in its collection of materials throwing light upon the post-biblical burial service and the regulations on the subject in the Roman church. A specimen of its biblical exegesis is the interpretation of 2 Tim. 1:18 as a prayer for the dead. An amusing chapter denounces cremation as anti-Christian and materialistic. Indeed, there is much entertaining reading in this book as well as useful information.—GEO. S. GOODSPEED.

Religion in Literature and Religion in Life. Being two Papers written by Stopford A. Brooke. (New York: Crowell, 1901; pp. 59; \$0.60.) The more important, because the more original, of these beautiful and inspiring essays gives a brief but comprehensive and broadly